Minister's visit to Renkoji Temple, Tokyo

2357. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent tour to Japan he visited Renkoji Temple in Tokyo to pay homage to Netaji Subhash Bose whose ashes are kept there;

(b) whether Government officially accept that the ashes really belong to Netaji and if so, whether Government would take possession of the same and bring it to the country, with honour; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the Minister's visit to the temple, to pay the homage?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, sir, during my visit to Japan, I visited the Renkoji Temple on Novmber 25, 1999.

(b) Two Commissions of Inquiry have gone into the question of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's death and the ashes kept in the Renkoji Temple. The first Commission of Inquiry, appointed in 1956, and headed by Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, concluded that the ashes kept in the Renkoji Temple were that of Netaji. However, Netaji's brother Shri S.C. Bose, who was a member of that Commission, gave a dissenting view. Subsequently, in 1970 a one man Commission of Inquiry, headed by Justice G.D. Khosla also concluded that the casket lodged in the Renkoji Temple, contained the ashes of Netaji. Most recently in May 1999, the Government have appointed the Mukherjee Commission to go into all the facts and circumstances related to the disppearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1945, and subsequent developments connected therewith.

(c) Does not arise.